

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Parachute Training at Oslavany, near Brno	DATE DISTR.	20 February 1953
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Information

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1. Parachute training of young men and women who have reached a minimum age of 16 has already been going on for several months at Oslavany (O 50/S 29), near Brno. The trainees first of all appear before a board on which there are representatives of the Army, the National Committee, the SCM (Czechoslovak Youth Movement) and the Communist Party. The board interrogates them as to whether they are members of the SCM, whether the father is a Communist, what their beliefs and their political views are, their standards of conduct, and those of their families, etc; the Ministry of National Defense gives special practical tests. Only after his application has been examined and approved can a trainee enter the course.
2. The training is divided into three parts. These are:
  - a. Preparatory training, lasting about six months. It includes theoretical training and political education, as well as instruction in the construction of a parachute, the beginnings and successes of Soviet aviators and parachutists, and also the importance of this training in the event of war against the capitalists. The trainees also take preparatory jumps from a ladder about 4 m. high, on the sports ground.
  - b. Military training, lasting six months. This consists of training in firing pistols, rifles, sub-machine guns, light and heavy machine guns, in throwing grenades and in servicing motor vehicles. It takes place on military rifle-ranges under the supervision of high-ranking military instructors.
  - c. Battle training, lasting one year. This includes instruction in military strategy, military map-reading, battle operations and counter-measures, i.e., normal military training with all weapons.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. The course is organized by the garrison headquarters in Brno, where the instructors are sent from. Once or twice a week the trainees are conveyed to Slatiny (O 51/G 42), where they go through all they have learned. Each trainee has an Identity Card (Legitimacy) which has eight pages and is similar to the former "Flight Book" given to trainee-pilots in the former Aero club; but the identity cards differ in having sections for the recording of the parts of the course completed and the standard reached by the trainee.
4. The parachutist training is steadily growing in popularity, because the participants are distinguished with high military and civil honors in public on every occasion.

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